Jack Anderson on Ford, p. 3

SOUTH CAROLINA'S NEWSWEEKLY

oscoda

September 6, 1974
Twenty-Five Cents

Shhh!

Do not disturb

p. 8

Labor-blessed candidates: Ravenel, Sinway Young, Ken Holland, John Jenrette, Brantley Harvey.

Getting Aiken a new hospital

by Dick Harpootlian

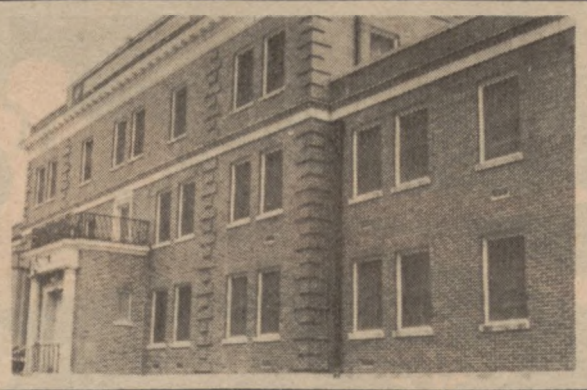
Aiken

It was here in Aiken just last year that some members of the local medical establishment drew national attention by refusing to tend to pregnant welfare mothers' needs -- at least until the mothers "agreed" to having themselves sterilized.

National network camera crews roamed the stately boulevards in this sleepy Southern hamlet, recording the story for Chancellor, Reasoner, et al. Then the crews left, the hub-bub died down and other than the American Civil Liberties Union's suit (still pending) in behalf of the welfare mothers, Aiken has faded from the news.

But predating the sterilization issue, and still an ongoing battle, is another controversy involving medical services in Aiken. The resolution of this issue will not likely draw national news attention and yet many citizens of Aiken County believe its outcome will determine the future of the medical well-being of everyone in their community.

The question dividing Aiken citizens concerns which route the county will take in providing its residents with a new hospital. Everyone agrees that the county needs a new hospital. The old one was built by Roosevelt's WPA crew and no one in Aiken argues that it shouldn't be replaced, although there is disagreement as to how urgently the task needs to be accomplished. With everyone in agreement as to the need for a replacement, all that was left to decide was the means to achieve that end.



"The growth potential in hospitals is unlimited; it's even better than Kentucky Fried Chicken."

One group, which includes the County Commissioners, has proposed that a proprietary hospital chain, Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) be contracted to do the job. HCA would build, staff and run the hospital on a profit-making basis, independent of the county's financial support.

The other faction wants Aiken's new hospital to be a publically owned facility. They fear losing control of the county's only medical facility and that the poor who can't pay the corporation's prices, will have to shop elsewhere.

And that's the rub. Despite HCA's assurances that they will treat the medically indigent, the Medicare and the Medicaid patients, and the others of Aiken's impoverished, there is a large group of Aiken's citizens which just won't believe them.

*****

The need for a new hospital in Aiken has been recognized by county officials since at least 1967 when a feasibility study was done to determine where it should be located. The old structure, on Richland Avenue near downtown Aiken, was adjacent to a plot of land which the county condemned and subsequently acquired for the new facility. It was thought that since many doctors had located their offices in the area surrounding the present facility that it would be in the best interests of the county to build the new facility in the same location.

In March of 1972 the medical consulting firm of Hewitt and Royer was hired by the county to fashion preliminay plans for the new hospital. After determining the needs of the county, the firm made its report in April, recommending that the county build a 204-bed facility adjacent to the old hospital.

(continued on page six)

osceola

"The mission of a modern newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable."
from a column by Peter Finley Dunn

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from Washington

Economic racism

Jerry Ford shows encouraging signs of diminishing parochialism and increasing liberalism. He attacked wire tapping, criticized General Motors for price hikes (but without any follow-up), faced down Veterans of Foreign Wars for modified amnesty, and picked Rocky for vice president, the best of the lot. He still has a monolithic crew of Wall Street types advising him on the economy. And he has given no signal yet on what he will do about America's Number 1 built-in problem-race.

The race problem is simple-- one American in 10 is black, and racial isolation is growing. What is happening, according to a two-year, documented, 72-page, paper-covered report by the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights, "Equal Opportunity in Suburbia," is that American central cities are growing more black, and American suburbs are growing more white. Central cities tend to decay; suburbs to flourish. This trend can't last short of absolute apartheid, yet the forces of racial polarization are self-generating, and the problem won't solve itself. It is the most serious social problem of the United States. Black cities are surrounded by a white noose, and people will fight before they are strangled.

"This economic-racial exclusion may well be called the racism of the Seventies," says the report. (The Commission will send you a copy free: address 1121 Vermont Ave., NW., Washington, D. C. 20425.)

Black concentration in central cities is the result of two things, race and low income and the two feed on each other. Median white family income in 1969 was $10,000 and black families $6,000. Suburbs don't like poor people, black or white, because they don't spend much and send up the tax rates.

Zoning restrictions often keep them out. Early in the century a lot measuring 60 by 100 feet was considered ample for a detached, single-family house, and row houses took less space. But the Commission noted that in four modern suburbs into whose neighborhood factories had moved lots were zoned for an acre or more. Blacks could fill the blue-color jobs but couldn't chase them outside the cities.

"You can't get no transportation," said a worker.

Communities plan it that way; exclusionary land use practices are widespread, the Commission finds. Housing discrimination is illegal under the Fair Housing Act of 1968. But the Civil Rights Division of the US Department of Justice had only 25 lawyers to police the nation; how silly can you get. Baltimore County's Human Relations Commission is typical of local enforcement; its budget was only $12,743 in 1970! Platitudinous fair-housing ordinances without teeth are the rule. Congress looks the other way, too; it approves rent supplement housing to get low income families out of the slums but the Commission notes that it allows communities to veto their use.

It's often a nice system for suburban commuters. Those city taxes, with all the poor people and the industries moving out, are terrible! People who live in the neatly lawned parasitical suburbs benefit from the city police, fire and sanitation departments and the cultural institutions, but often escape the taxes. Sometimes limited-access highways lead comfortably across the ghetto.

"Look down, daddy," says the child in the air conditioned car, "how dark the streets are."

How long can this racial partition of the nation last? The number of whites in central cities is down to 40 percent and at the present rate will be only 25 percent by the year 2000, the Commission estimates. Black unemployment is normally double white; for teen-age blacks it is seven times heavier. If the United States heads into recession with really high unemployment there could be riots. The crime rate increase that Nixon jubilantly told the nation in his 1972 State of the Union message he had halted ("The 17-year rise in crime has been stopped; we can confidently say today that we are finally beginning to win the war against crime.") is accelerating faster than ever. Unemployed teen-agers are chief offenders.

One reason blacks are poor is poor schools. Cities bear the burden of educating large numbers of disadvantaged children, often from a low property-tax base. The Supreme Court, in March, 1973 (San Antonio School District) ruled, 5-4, that states need not correct inherent educational inequities between rich suburbs and poor cities, because education is not a "fundamental" right guaranteed by the Constitution. All four Nixon appointees were in the majority. Last June, the Supreme Court, 5-4 (Bradly vs Milliken) ruled out a metropolitan solution for black concentration (67 percent of Detroit's schools by mingling them with the school population of the entire metropolis (blacks 23 percent). All four Nixon appointees again in the majority. (Thank God dissenter William O. Douglas, 75, has survived a Nixon replacement).

The Commission notes that half of the 15 largest cities in the nation already have majority nonwhite public school enrollment and it implies that the others will soon, too. The only way to eliminate predominantly black schools, it says, is by a metropolitan solution, but it wrote this before the Supreme Court ruled that out, at least in Michigan, Mr. Ford's home state.

The Commission has positive proposals. One is, simply, that the law be enforced. The Justice Department and HUD are lethargic: "The Commission had found that neither department had enforced these laws vigorously or effectively." Nixon didn't want to offend the South; maybe straight forward President Ford will see it differently. The Commission wants to end exclusionary zoning and housing laws. It says, hopefully, that "white acceptance of inter-racial living has been growing" where it can be practiced. Racial isolation, "in which most Americans live," it says; "creates suspicion and fear" which heightens "feelings of racism."

Or, as Justice Thurgood Marshall wrote in his dissent in the Detroit school case, "Unless our children begin to learn together, there is little hope that our people will ever learn to live together."

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politicus

Reassuring the liberals

Rumblings of discontent among liberal supporters of Democratic Gubernatorial nominee "Pug" Ravenel became considerably more audible last week, as the candidate and his staff moved to quash ideas he might be compromising his standards.

Recent events served to considerably sharpen that concern. First, word was leaked that Ravenel had plans to set up a separate organization for the General Election specifically seeking to attract established Democrats to the campaign. There followed the announcement that former Governor Bob McNair was organizing a series of luncheon meetings to "introduce" Ravenel to key Old Guard Democratic leaders-- seeking to cement their support for the General Election. Then came the announcement that Bob Hickman, former staff aide and close confidant to McNair, had been appointed chief fund-raiser for the Ravenel General Election campaign.

On the heels of all that came word that the apparent new closeness of Messrs. Ravenel and McNair had so incensed Columbia attorney Tom Turnipseed, he was on the verge of announcing as an independent candidate for Governor and launching a drive to secure the necessary 10,000 signatures to put his name on the ballot in November.

Turnipseed, former aide to Alabama Governor George Wallace and former executive director of the S. C. Taxpayers' Association, ran a strong race in his effort to unseat State Attorney General Dan McLeod in the Democratic Primary. In losing, Turnipseed polled substantially more votes than were cast for Ravenel in the first primary. In the runoff, Turnipseed campaigned hard for Ravenel.

Turnipseed the crusader sees abuse of private corporate power as the number one political and economic evil in the State and nation. And in South Carolina, he contends, former Governor McNair has as much as anyone become the symbol of the evil. In his anger, Turnipseed succumbed to his proclivity toward conspiracy theories and mused aloud that perhaps Ravenel and McNair had been in league all along.

Although now somewhat less agitated than a week ago, Turnipseed had not yet ruled out the possibility of running-- despite personal assurances from Ravenel campaign manager Marvin Chernoff that there have been no turnabouts in the Ravenel campaign. Retorting that actions speak louder than disclaimers, Turnipseed proceeded to sound out his supporters around the state on the possibility of a gubernatorial run.

Whatever the outcome of Turnipseed's feint, it did serve to bring the issue to a head. Liberals fearing a split which might result in Republican nominee Jim Edwards' election in November were moved to demand of the Ravenel campaign, with greater urgency, that something be done. And the Ravenel camp was moved to respond.

While Chernoff was occupied with dispensing reassurances to troubled liberal backers, Ravenel emerged from his post-election vacation to plunge into a series of public appearances.

In a Spartanburg speaking engagement, and an accompanying press release distributed state-wide, Ravenel blasted the state Senate for its continuing refusal to enact new ethics legislation. Later in Columbia, the candidate made the rounds to television studios, giving mini-interviews emphasizing his campaign had been neither sidetracked nor co-opted.

There are two underlying problems giving rise to the continuing controversy. The first is-- what else?-- money.

Ravenel's strategy in the primaries was to take the only option open to an unknown, insurgent candidate with very little time: spend a bunch of money. That's exactly what he did. (Well over $430,000 by his own estimate.) He spent it well, of course, on the most exciting and intense media blitz in the State's political history.

Chernoff: unaware?

But spend it he did.

Problem was, contrary to the popular impression of Ravenel as being sufficiently endowed financially to foot the bill for his expensive campaign, he didn't really have it to spend. And he hadn't been able to raise it. Now, the campaign is a quarter of a million dollars in debt, and nobody seems to know how that is going to be repaid.

To justify the hiring of Hickman, Chernoff laments he has run through five full-time fund-raisers with minimum success, that Hickman is a proven, effective pro raising money in South Carolina. True enough, but Hickman's experience raising money had been for established political causes, and from establishment sources. Since most of those sources have traditionally been tied to special interests-- primarily within the business community-- money Hickman could raise would obviously be suspect.

Chernoff responds by reminding that all contributions will be made public. But that's really beside the point. New politics doesn't-- and can't-- stop at the door of any campaign's finance committee. That Ravenel has backed himself into a corner to the tune of over $200,000, with no real idea of how to get out, just seems fundamentally inconsistent with the thrust of the Ravenel campaign to date.

One would have thought Ravenel, Chernoff and company might have anticipated their current dilemma. Had Ravenel lost, perhaps he could have relied on his own business enterprises to pay off the debts. But Ravenel's investment banking days are over now. And his failure to equal the newness and imaginativeness of his politicking in his fund-raising leaves the atmosphere around his campaign pretty flat. At least the righteousness level has declined. The stinger has, without question, been dulled.

As Ravenel approaches the Old Guard money boys with a hand full of "gimme" and a mouth full of "much obliged," there is obvious anxiousness over the continued political integrity of the campaign.

Chernoff has stated emphatically there will be no quid pro quo, no concessions given. "I'll sign that in blood," he told one reporter. In response to liberal pressure, Chernoff has also nixed the idea of a separate campaign organization for Old Guard Democrats.

Yet, when Chernoff says simply, "We will go to them and ask them to support Pug Ravenel and his program," one can't help but wonder. Left at that, the scenario is just kind of hard to swallow. And when Chernoff concedes he wasn't even aware of Hickman's previous associations with McNair when the decision to hire Hickman was made, the question inevitably follows as to just how well Chernoff and his cadre have the situation in hand.

So the second root problem in all this concerns the decision-making process as it exists now within the Ravenel camp. Who has input? How is it weighted?

McNair, who infamed himself with the Orangeburg Massacre and the Charleston Hospital Strike during his own administration, who now makes his money by peddling influence to such vested interest corporate clients as South Carolina Electric and Gas, Duke Power, and Georgia Pacific, and whose other main avocation of the moment is working tirelessly to the right of Democratic National Committee Chairman Robert Strauss to "stonewall" against advances made by party reformers, is especially suspect among many who have been Ravenel's strongest supporters.

To keep on the track, Ravenel eventually will have to come up with something more substantial than "trust me."

Jack Anderson

Ford takes the plunge

Jack Anderson's weekly "Washington Merry-Go-Round" column will be a regular feature in Osceola.

WASHINGTON -- It took courage for President Ford to tell stunned veterans to their faces that he supports conditional amnesty.

He knew this would outrage the veterans, who are dead set against amnesty. But keeping with his policy of leveling with the American people, he made his amnesty statement to the toughest of all the veterans groups, the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Ford set the stage for his surprise announcement carefully. He called Sens. Robert Taft and Claiborne Pell to the White House to listen to their amnesty proposal. Then he went them one better, suggesting amnesty not only for draft dodgers but for all deserters as well.

It will take all of the President's influence, however, to push an amnesty bill through Congress. Mississippi's crusty old James Eastland is expected to bottle up the legislation in his Senate Judiciary Committee.

It's unlikely, therefore, that an amnesty bill will pass this session. But as one senator put it, "The President has made it more politically acceptable to support amnesty." Of course, some suspicious souls feel that President Ford is merely setting the stage for amnesty to someone else -- former President Nixon.

The Commander-in-chief

The bitter truth: President Ford has told his advisers that he wants the "unvarnished truth" about the economy and he is getting it. Here is what they have told him in their confidential, early-morning strategy sessions:

A new wave of inflation is expected to hit the nation. Wholesale prices shot up almost four per cent in July. This is an alarming development, which will mean higher retail prices this fall.

The drought in the Midwest may have the same effect on food prices as the oil embargo had on gas prices. Millions of impoverished Americans simply won't be able to afford the food they need to survive. The government will have to move fast to prevent a hunger rebellion.

The cost of buying foreign oil, meanwhile, is draining away our dollars at an alarming $28 billion annual rate. Even the United States, with its vast wealth, can't afford to continue paying out such a tremendous annual sum for oil without going bankrupt. But to make matters worse, U. S. banks are loaning large sums to foreign governments to help them pay their fuel costs.

But perhaps the most disturbing news of all is that U. S. industrial production has leveled off and the gross national product is continuing to slip. The economic experts also warned President Ford that unemployment could hit seven per cent next year.

What these statistics mean is that the nation still hasn't shaken itself out of its economic slump. The slump could develop into an economic collapse unless the President acts quickly.

He put it best himself behind closed White House doors. "We've got to face up," he said, "to certain economic fundamentals."

Crime Crackdown

Atty. Gen. William Saxbe has ordered his prosecutors across the country to crack down on hardened criminals.

Saxbe's research indicates that most violent crimes are committed by a few incorrigibles. They are the repeaters who move in and out of prison. They learn how to beat the system. They get quick paroles for good behavior and use legal obstructions to delay sentencing when they are caught again.

Thus, they wind up on the streets while less experienced criminals are stuck behind bars. Saxbe's studies show that the incorrigibles invariably continue their crime rampage after they are freed.

Saxbe has told aides that the few hardcore criminals are terrorizing society and changing the life-style of law-abiding Americans. He pointed out, for example, that 60 per cent of the robberies in one large community were cleared up by the arrest of only five incorrigibles.

Therefore, the attorney general has ordered his prosecutors to give first priority to the incorrigibles. He would rather leave it to others to worry about whether society is to blame for the misbehavior of hardened criminals. The Justice Department's job, he has stressed, is to keep them in prison so they can't keep on menacing society.

High Hopes

The elevation of Gerald Ford to the presidency has dramatically changed Republican prospects. Until Richard Nixon resigned, GOP leaders had been bracing for a Democratic landslide in November. Many members of Congress announced their premature retirements because the political atmosphere in Washington had become so poisoned.

Now Republican leaders believe they will be able to hold the line in November. They expect the loss of no more than half-a-dozen House seats. In the Senate,

(Continued on page five)

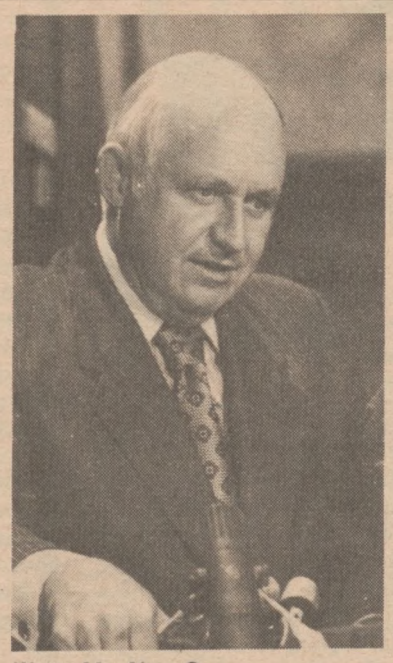
Cheap Shots

McNair on the run?

Politicians seem to have a difficult time retiring in South Carolina. No sooner are they out of one office than someone else is throwing their hat into another political ring.

Such is the case with former governor Robert E. McNair, who slipped out of the governor's mansion in 1970 and has since been keeping a relatively low profile - for a politician -- as a lawyer in Columbia. McNair is not yet too old to offer for other offices but thus far he hasn't publicly mentioned being interesed in any elective positions.

Sinway Young, president of the S. C. Labor Council and a friend of the former governor, had given the impression that McNair just might be enticed into further public service. Young, at a convention of the Labor Council August 22, told the delegates very directly and definitely that McNair will "take on" Sen. Strom Thurmond when the Palmetto state's senior senator's seat comes up for grabs again in 1978.



West: Mr. Nice Guy

McNair, when contacted by *Osceola* later, refused to verify Young's claim. But he also did not rule out the possibility that he might oppose Thurmond. "I never cross bridges that far ahead," he laughed as if the question had caught him by surprise. Indeed, he said it was the first time he had heard of Young's statement.

But he also said, "I haven't closed the door to getting back into politics." When he will do so, if he decides to offer again, McNair declined to say. "I really wouldn't like to make any comment at this time."

Young's statement to the Labor Council might include a little wishful thinking, but the former governor's still considerable political influence gives that thought a degree of credence. Following an intimation by Charles D. "Pug" Ravenel at a July 31 news conference that he too might give Thurmond a run in 1978, it appears the Senate race could prove very interesting.

The 'thieves' strike back

If there was any question in the minds of any of you out there as to how the legislative leadership feels about Charles "Pug" Ravenel's victory in the July primary, the comments below should straighten you out.

On the last day of the legislative session, a resolution was introduced in the Senate to commend John West on his job as governor.

Guess who Marion Gressette was referring to when he used the following phrase to laud West: "He has been a soft spoken, modest man. He's accomplished many things not because he used a big stick, not because he was critical of the General Assembly, but because of his persuasive abilities."

And Senator Ralph Gasque added his two cents worth, saying, "the Governor has never been flamboyant or spectacular."

Of course, the barbs were meant for the Pugger, the man who called them "a den of thieves" only a few months ago. The man who said he would "bare knuckle it out" with the legislature if they wouldn't adopt his programs.

Perhaps Gasque and Gressette have had their fears allayed by former Governor Robert McNair, who is now Pug's traveling companion. Perhaps, but we shall see what we shall see.

Tourists, go home

You hear a lot about causes these days, but you don't hear much about causes in which whole communities are involved. We do know, however, of one of the latter variety which has been continuing for over a year and a half now down in the tiny community of Sullivan's Island, tucked away across the bay from Charleston. The controversy centers around the federal government's National Park Service and its plans to "touristize" the island's historic Fort Moultrie.

The 1975 federal budget contains some $1.8 million dollars which the National Park Service wants to use to build a "boat dock," visitation center and 200-car parking lot on the island to accommodate people coming from Charleston by boat or car to visit Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie. The majority of the residents of the island, which number some 1,600 during the winter and about 3,500 during the summer months, have opposed the plan since the beginning, because they feel that the plan will turn the community into something they don't want it to be -- namely a tourist resort.

Last Saturday, the Island Civic Club managed to piece together in less than a week's time a shrimp-boil and beer get-together which attracted some 750 persons and raised around $2,000 toward litigation expenses to fight the NPS in court. The club also plans to start a letter campaign to property owners on the island which they believe will add substantially toward their ultimate goal of $5,000.

Civic Club members couldn't have been more happy or surprised with the turnout. Several local, state, and Washington politicians were invited, but few showed up. One who did was First District Congressman Mendel Davis who the Island people believe is the only politician in Washington sympathetic to their cause. Davis made a brief political-type speech about "going down to the wire" with the people and promised to do everything that he could to see to it that the people's wishes are met.

While Davis had little to say, it was still more than anyone else. The Island's five Commissioners have been less than candid or unequivocal about how they feel, and one Island resident reports that one of them made three contradictory statements over the last week in three different instances.

The original Master Plan offered by the NPS called for the displacing of some 39 homes and about 50 families to give visitors coming to the island via the boat dock what the report calls a "sense of arrival" to a time back in history. The Commissioners, who strongly opposed the original plan, have now become wishy-washy about the revised plan which changes nothing substantially from the first one except that it calls for the displacing of only one home. But as far as the residents are concerned, the rest of the plan is bad enough to continue to oppose.

Many residents believe that the Fort is going to be the focal point for the Bicentenial coming up in 1976 and while that may be okay now, it doesn't say much for what is going to happen afterwards. They believe the island, once the boat dock is built, will become a port of embarkation for tourist bound for Fort Sumter -- who have in the past been picked up at the Battery in Charleston.

The regional director for the NPS in Atlanta, David Thomas, has supposedly pleged that the island will not be used for embarkation if the residents will not oppose the building of the dock. The people, however, reflect little trust in what Thomas and others have promised, wondering what might happen when Mr. Thomas is gone.

For anyone who has visited Sullivan's Island, it's obvious that increasing the number of tourist is going to increase the number of problems in the serene community. Access to the island and its sister island -- the Isle of Palms -- is by a single-lane causeway or boat. Residents fear the increase in traffic will result if the NPS spends their money there.

The Civic Club will use the money raised last week to obtain legal help to prepare for a scheduled September meeting with Thomas. Hopefully, the NPS will be persuaded to spend the money elsewhere, and Sullivan residents were suggesting Cowpens in the northern part of the state, which has long sought a memorial for a Revolutionary battle which occured there.

The controversy between the NPS and the residents seems destined for a long run. But for the residents of Sullivan's Island, famous for causes (notably the defeat of the British fleet in 1776 by the unnamed, palm-tree fort imortalized symbolically now on the South Carolina State insignia), there is still a fighting chance.

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No time for ethics legislation

by Dick Harpootlian

It was about noon. The legislature had already passed a resolution two weeks earlier which would adjourn the 1974 General Assembly at 5 p.m. on this very day. When the timepiece above Earle Morris' head circled to five o'clock, the longest legislative session in South Carolina history -- almost eight months -- would come to an end.

But there was much left to do. All the debate, cajoling and arm-twisting on tax reform had still not germinated into an definitive action. And the constitutional amendment which would allow the voters to choose their form of government had not been given its day.

But weighing heavily on many of the solons' minds, burning like a malignant tumor in the back of their skulls was the thought of ethics legislation. Pug Ravenel had flailed them with their own excesses and parlayed that emotional appeal into a gubernatorial nomination. Tom Turnipseed received 140,000 votes against Dan McLeod, a man most South Carolinians believe is relatively ethical. The handwriting was on the wall. Something must be done.

Marion Gressette strode to the podium. With less than five hours remaining in the session and so many matters to be considered, time, obviously, was of the essence. Gressette began by introducing a Swiss exchange student who had spent the summer in Gressette's own Calhoun County. The Swiss kid was met with polite applause.

"And sitting next to this lad is my brother Bobby." More applause. With time running out in the 1974 General Assembly, Marion Gressette was letting the Senate know his feelings about the hurry to pass ethics legislation. True, he was acting in direct defiance of the public will as expressed in July, but Marion had his reasons and to him they were damn good reasons.

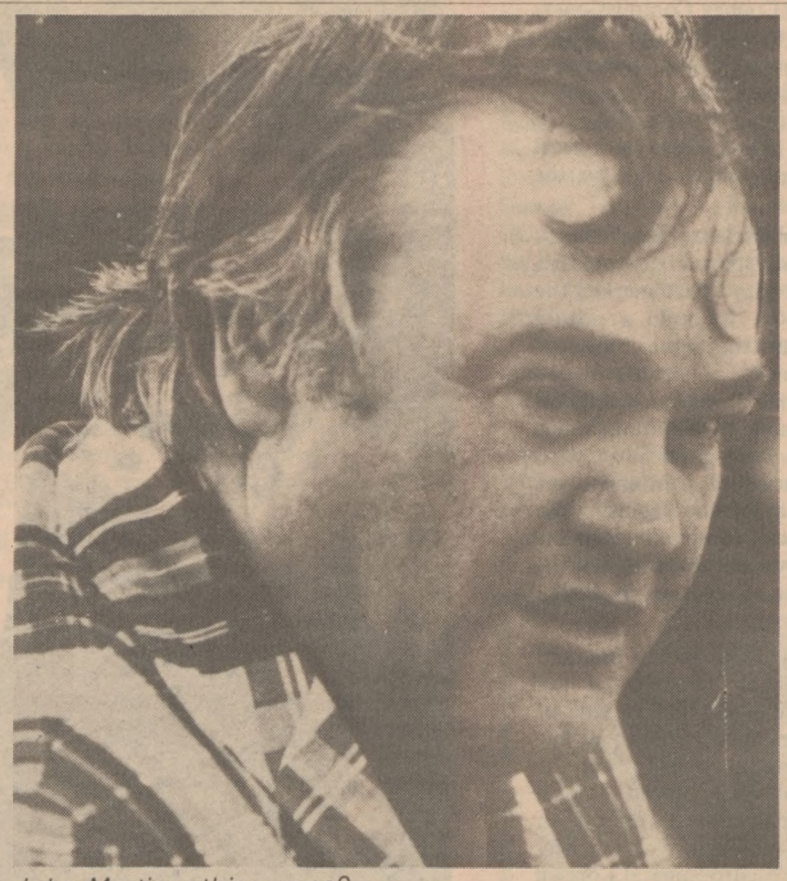
To explain, several of the ethics bills which had been offered in both houses which would have dealt with campaign spending disclosures and a wide range of conflicts of interests died during the session. Only one so-called "ethics bill" remained and that was House Bill Number 1033. The bill would have prohibited lawyer-legislators and members of their firms from practicing before the state Public Service Commission for a fee. The bill was designed to remove from the public mind any doubt engendered by large retainer fees paid by utilities and others to powerful lawyer-legislators for representing them before the PSC, a body whose members are elected by those same lawyer-legislators.

Senator Rembert Dennis, powerful chairman of the Senate Finance committee, had served notice that he thought that the citizens of South Carolina were trying to tell the legislature something by their votes for Charles "Pug" Ravenel. That message, Dennis said, was that the people didn't want their legislators getting fees from utilities for representing them in rate cases.

So House Bill Number 1033 gained Dennis' support, but not without some strings attached. Since the bill had passed the House, 95-1, the Senator felt that a few amendments in the Senate wouldn't dampen the House's enthusiasm.

What Dennis and others proposed in amendment form was to limit the bill's applicability to only the lawyer-legislators, not their firms or partners, and it would only apply to appearances in rate-making cases before the PSC.

Now back to Gressette. The Senator from St. Matthews practices law in a firm with his son back home. Their clients include Southern Railway Company, Queen City Coach, and Southeastern Freight Lines, among others. Without the proposed amendment to H-1033 both Gressette Senior and Junior would be prevented from representing their clients before the PSC in hearings affecting routes or service areas. So Gressette was in no hurry to pass H-1033, and if it was to pass, first it would have to be amended. Is the picture becoming a bit clearer?



John Martin: ethics woes?

When debate on H-1033 finally began, Senator Dewey Wise of Charleston took the podium to call the legislation a sham, adding, "I read in the paper this morning that the ethics bill is going to be passed. I don't know how that rumor got out. This is nothing more than window dressing."

After describing the lack of substance in the bill, Wise went on to threaten, "I tell you that beginning in January of next year there will begin a statewide push for comprehensive ethics and conflicts of interest legislation."

Speaking of the proposed amendment to H-1033, Wise went on, "This is a facade. This amendment will not deter us from pushing for a more comprehensive measure on conflicts of interest."

Dennis stood and faced the young Charlestonian, and accused Wise of being "like the kid who says if you don't play my way I'll take my bat and go home."

The Senator from Berkeley then accused Wise of going "too far," adding, "The people of this state, as I understand it, do not care about bus companies and their battles, all they care about is the electric companies."

Speaking of himself in the third person, Dennis went on to say, "Why was the Senator from Berkeley pilloried, slandered and libeled all over this state? The people of this state have gotten absolutely emotional. They'll pay anything for a steak or anything else, but if their electric or milk bill goes up a few cents, they get frantic." Dennis called H-1033 "a great stride forward as we answer the people of this state" and he condemned "psychotic emotionalism which has developed in this state over the years."

Then varied senators took to the floor to add their two cents worth. J.P. "Preacher" Harrelson of Colleton offered his solution: "I do not think it is a conflict of interest if you can search your soul, if you can quiet the fear."

Then John Martin, rotund Democrat from Fairfield County who earned some $12,000 last year for representing utilities before the PSC gave his explanation of the new public awareness over ethics. "The day the public confidence began to dwindle in us was the day the ethics bill was introduced. The man on the street saw it introduced and figured that there must be a need."

Finally, after more "debate" a vote was called on Dewey Wise's motion to table the amendment. A "no" vote on tabling meant that the amendment would still be viable and would probably pass. The final tally was 32 voting "no" and eight voting "yes."

The amendment passed by voice vote.

It was 2 p.m. so someone motioned that the body adjourn for lunch. Senate President Earle Morris consented and a vote agreed with him. He told the body that they would reconvene at 3 p.m. but John Drummond of Greenwood said, "How 'bout 3:30?" So 3:30 it was. No hurry, no rush, now that the remaining scrap of ethics legislation had been gutted everyone could take a leisurely lunch.

The Senate finally passed an amended form of H-1033 at 4:45. It was sent to the House where there wasn't enough time to give it a full reading let alone debate it.

So ethics legislation is dead for 1974. It will be next January before it will be reconsidered. Dewey Wise will be back along with those seven others who stood with him in opposing the slaughter of H-1033. But so will Dennis, Gressette, Gasque and Martin and therein lies the problem.

Jack Anderson

(Continued from page three)

they expect to lose a seat in Florida but to gain a seat in Nevada. Other Senate seats, which looked like they would go to Democrats, are now considered safe.

Utah is typical. The secret Republican polls showed that the Democratic candidate, Wayne Owens, was leading by a wide margin during the last days of President Nixon. But now, the Republican candidate, Jake Garn, has suddenly overtaken Owens in the polls by two percentage points.

Republican leaders, however, are still holding their breath. Economic reverses could wipe out all the good will that President Ford has gained for the party.

In times of economic uncertainty, the voters usually vote Democratic. And Capitol Hill has been swamped with letters from constitutents complaining about high prices and expressing worry over recession. Many fear another depression similar to the 1930s may be coming.

This could damage Republican prospects in November unless Ford can persuade the American people he has a firm hold on the economy.

For The Good

In private conversations, President Ford has spoken earnestly about the lessons on Watergate. He believes that the Watergate horrors have had some good effects. Most important, he has told friends, is the effect upon basic American freedoms.

He has acknowledged in the strictest of privacy that the Watergate evidence shows his predecessor, Richard Nixon, permitted some of these freedoms to be abused.

As one of his first moves, therefore, the new President intends to support legislation to safeguard the right of privacy. He has asked Republican congressional leaders to study the available bills and to recommend which one he should endorse.

He has stressed that he wants to strengthen the laws against such Watergate abuses as government burglaries, wiretaps and other violations of individual rights.

President Ford pointed out to friends that he had put up in the Cabinet Room the protraits of two of his favorite Presidents -- Abraham Lincoln and Harry Truman. "As you can see," Ford said, "we've changed the pictures."

Both Lincoln and Truman held sacred the sovereignty of the people, Ford noted. Lincoln spoke eloquently of government "of the people, by the people and for the people." Truman said he looked upon the presidency as being on loan from the American people.

This is also the philosophy of Gerald Ford.

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Hospital

(continued from page one)

But by April of the next year the County Commissioners began looking at alternatives to the Hewitt and Royer recommendations. The commissioners began examining American Medicorp, Inc. and Extendicare, Inc., two proprietary hospital chains, to determine the feasibility of a private, profit-making facility. The board, along with local physicians and members of the press made trips to the corporations' facilities in other states.

In September of 1973, five months later, four county commissioners and two Aiken County physicians toured a Hospital Corporation of America facility. That marked the beginning of negotiations with HCA to build a private hospital for the county. At about the same time the hospital board of trustees endorsed a county-owned hospital and by October a petition containing 10,000 names was presented to the Board of Commissioners indicating the petitioners' preference for a publically owned facility. But in November the Board of Commissioners signed a contract with HCA to build the facility. The contract did contain a buy-back clause which will allow the county to buy the completed facility back from HCA if the public votes for such a move in a November, 1974 referendum.

Since November, 1973, the fight has become hot and heavy. A group which dubbed itself "Friends of the Hospital" has challenged HCA and the Board of Commissioners at every move. Their latest effort to stymie the Commissioners and the corporation is based on the allegation that proper procedure was not followed by local agencies in the approval of HCA's application to build their hospital. On August 6 a hearing was held in Columbia by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to determine if violations of the procedural requirements had occured. Under South Carolina law the DHEC is vested with the responsibility of determining if there is a genuine need for additional medical facilities in a community. If such a need is found, then the Department issues the certificate of need.

The Friends relied mainly on procedural violations rather than the relative merits of HCA's proposal in their challenge before the DHEC, but that hearing also revealed a fear on the part of the Friends that HCA would disregard the needs of the people, especially the poor people of Aiken, in their quest for profits. Specifically mentioned was HCA's decision to locate their hospital in an area near the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus, miles from the present facility. The Friends also alleged that HCA would not provide Aiken's indigent with needed services, since profits and charity are mutually exclusive pursuits. The DHEC ruled against the Friends on August 28, but the issues still remain and they are considering taking DHEC to court.

Dr. Robert O. Lipe, an Aiken physician, was one of the Friends' chief witnesses in that hearing. In an interview with Dr. Lipe a week after the hearing the Doctor told *Osceola* that he felt the tide is turning in the battle against HCA. "In October of 1973, 23 of the 30 doctors in this county were in favor of going the HCA route," he said last week, "but now that number is down to 15."

Lipe contends that there is no drastic need for a new hospital now and that the Board of Commissioners should take their time in making the decision. He believes that the Board has "psyched" themselves into believing that they must act immediately, saying, "If you hear enough about crises, then soon you believe that there is a crisis."

The Aiken physician believes that the county is being rushed into a move which could have adverse impact which will affect the lives and well-being of Aiken residents for many years to come.

"The Hewitt and Royer study indicated that we should place the new hospital near the old physical plant so that we could take advantage of the facilities which already exist. We bought the land behind the old facility in a condemnation proceeding some years ago for $108,000. But the one alternative mentioned in the Hewitt and Royer report which would mean no increase in taxes was the one the Commission chose, a private hospital."

Lipe and his cohorts have generated some criticism through their actions and have become the focal point for attacks by the local daily newspaper, *The Aiken Standard* . In an editorial on August 13 the *Standard* chastized, "If all the power that is contained in Aiken County's negativism could be harnessed and turned into *constructive action*, Aiken County would be an immensely better place for all of us.

"No, the HCA proposal is not perfect. Even so, it is vastly better than no hospital. And that is the choice we face.

"Those members of our community who take a realistic attitude would do well to assert themselves if they want any kind of hospital."

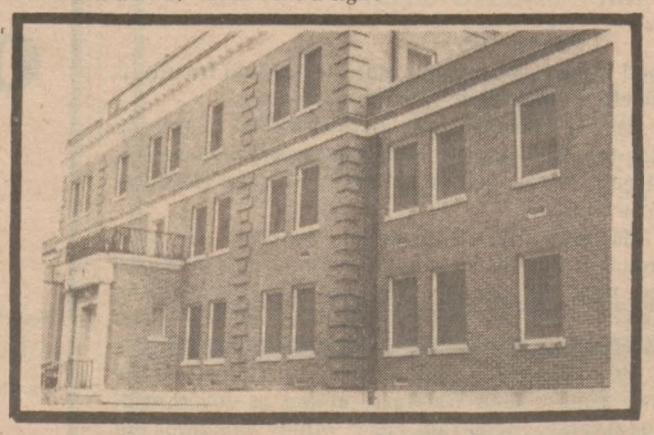
At far right is HCA President Dr. Frist and Third from right is Chief County Commissioner & Harold Graybeal at rainy dedication

But the newspaper's editorial tongue-lashing went unheeded, for just a few days later the Friends held a meeting at which well over 100 of Aiken's business and civic leaders attended.

On August 13 HCA held their ground-breaking ceremony. Even though the DHEC hadn't rendered their decision HCA decided to officially get things underway.

The site for the HCA facility is now a sandy 60-acre area dotted with scrub pines. About 50 citizens, HCA representatives and members of the press gathered there to turn the first spade of soil. As the civic leaders began their speeches a few drops of rain began falling and a few minutes later a torrential downpour broke loose. Everyone scattered.

A reporter for the *Standard* looked up at the sky as the downpour began and shook his head. He leaned over and wondered aloud, "Think it's a sign?"



On a national level proprietary hospitals, including the Hospital Corporation of America chain, have come in for increasing criticism in recent years.

An article published in the June 10 edition of *Medical Economics* June 10 edition was a frontal attack on HCA's efforts and has HCA officials steaming. Dr. Alvin H. Lassen, an OBG specialist in Metairie, La., penned an article titled, "Don't let a chain strangle your hospital!" The article described the way in which a national hospital chain, in his opinion, wreaked havoc on a hospital in which he worked.

The Doctor explained that after the national hospital chain took control of his local hospital that services and staff were eliminated in a cost-cutting effort. The result, Dr. Lassen believes, is detrimental.

While Dr. Lassen refused to name the chain or hospital in his article, he did admit in a telephone interview with *Osceola* that he was referring to HCA. "I had hoped to keep this out of discussion among lay people, though. I had hoped that we as professionals could find a solution," Dr. Lassen explained.

Dr. Thomas F. Frist, Jr., executive vice-president of HCA, while in Aiken for the dedication and groundbreaking ceremony, took issue with Dr. Lassen's allegations. "It's a lie and we will have a rebuttal written by staff members at that hospital printed in the next edition of *Medical Economics*. Let me have you talk to our administrator down there," Frist offered.

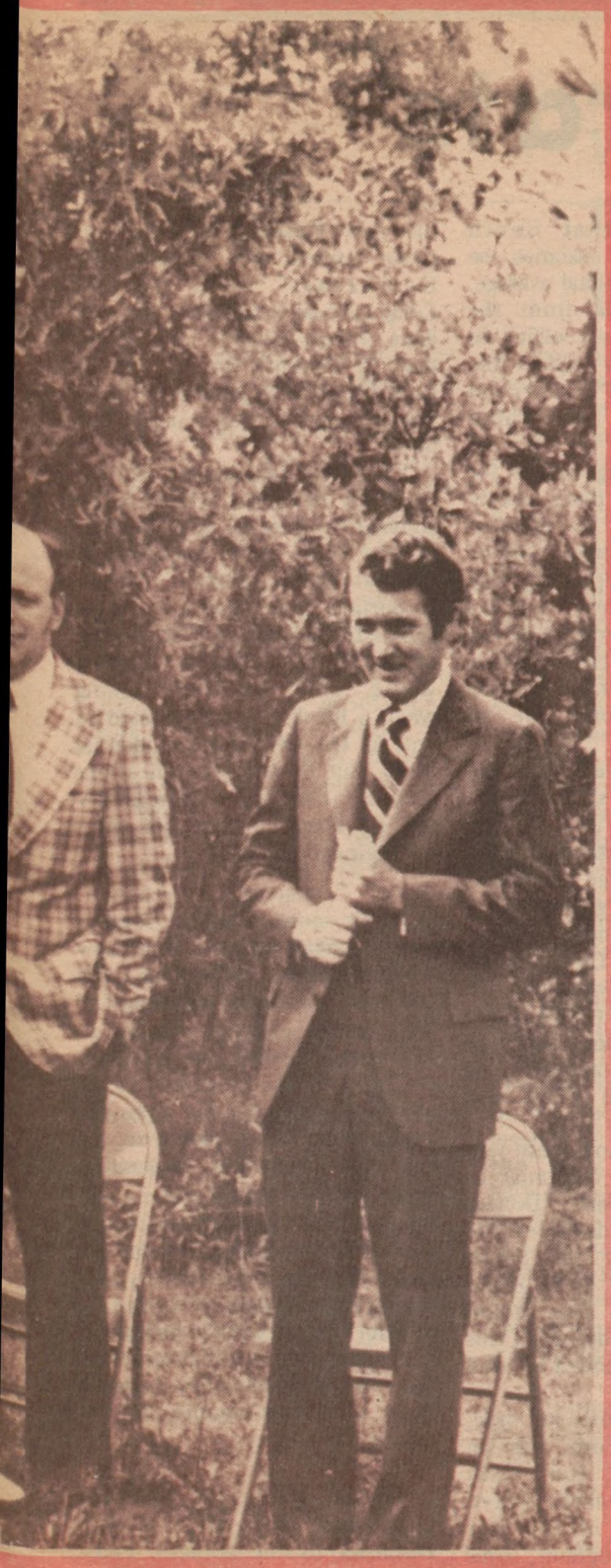
Dr. Frist then called hospital administrator Ed Brodie in Metairie and instructed him to answer any and all questions. Brodie proceeded to counter Lassen's allegations of increased prices and decreased staff point by point. He said the article which will be printed in *Medical Economics* in the near future will straighten out any questions the public might have.

When Frist was asked why he felt Lassen would attack HCA, the Doctor said, "Lassen was in control of that hospital before we came in and now he has lost his power. It's understandable that he would be bitter about it."

Frist is the man HCA apparently sends in to do their troubleshooting. Tall, handsome and well-spoken, he has an ironclad answer for every question. His answers are pat because he attributes the worst of motives to his opponent, though sometimes they are "understandable", while he and HCA are merely trying to bring order to disorder and profit to deficit.

When he was asked why a significant number of Aiken doctors now seemed to be opposing HCA, Frist explained, "Now you know that many of them have their offices near the old hospital and...well...you know as well as I that they can now just walk over to the hospital when they're needed. When we build our unit out on the highway, they will have to go to more trouble, it won't be as convenient for them, but a heck of a lot more convenient for everybody else. It's understandable."

With that question settled, Frist moved on to discuss the



costs the Friends of the Hospital are foisting on the county. "Every day construction costs are going up. Money is getting harder and more expensive to borrow. We said it would cost $10 million, the inflation took it closer to 11 and now it may go as high as $12 million if we don't get building..."

Frist also says that HCA opponents are "dreaming" when they say they can finance a public hospital by floating revenue bonds at 6½ percent interest. "Why Virginia Electric, trying 10½ percent last week, got no takers, so why should people buy these bonds at 6½ percent?"

Frist pointed out that surveys have shown that only a little over 40 percent of Aiken County's population uses the present county facility. "Many go to the hospitals in Augusta which are closer," says Frist, "so how can you expect 60 percent who don't even use the facility to have their taxes raised to support it?"

Frist's opponents don't know all that much about high finance and interest rates, but what they *do* know is that they want to maintain control of their own hospital and that they do not want anyone in Aiken County to be denied medical services. First allayed these fears, "Do you think that we're going to turn people away? We'll take Medicaid, Medicare and all the other poor. And besides it looks like this national health insurance plan is going to pass Congress, so it will pay for everyone."

But still there is that big question mark in many Aiken County residents' minds as to what they are getting themselves into. Some frequently cite an article which Roger Rapoport authored in *Harpers* two years ago.

"In Nashville multimillionaire Jack Massey has resigned from the chairmanship of Kentucky Fried Chicken to become chairman of the Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) where business is finger licking good. Since 1968 HCA has opened forty hospitals with 5,250 beds in twelve states. Another 2,000 beds are under construction, Mr. Massey believes, "The growth potential in hospitals is unlimited; it's even better than Kentucky Fried Chicken."

Another proprietary hospital chairman, Uranus Appel of American Medical International, was quoted by Rapoport as saying: "But the key profit factor is turnover. Unlike a hotel you are trying to cut down the average length of stay. In a typical hospital the patient stays about 8.2 days. At the average proprietary unit it's about 6.8 days, and we have it down to about 5.6. We do this because most of the patient profit is generated during his first three days in the hospital. That's when all the lucrative sides of your operation like lab, X-ray, and the operating room are busy. Why in the first few days it's not uncommon for the patient to run up a $1,000 bill. After that the patient is merely recuperating and we are lucky to break even on his room and board bill."

It's statements like these which make Aiken County's Friends of the Hospital uneasy.

To confirm their fears are statements like those made by Jesse Reel, administrator of the Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany, Georgia. Reel's public hospital serves the same area as an HCA hospital and while he is somewhat hesitant to talk about the situation ("I have to work with them") he would say this, "Here they (HCA) don't do everything. We carry the burden of charity. They just want those patients that they cater to. Their rates are $100 a day higher than we are and they are only three blocks away. They serve a different clientele."

When Reel was informed that the HCA facility will be the only medical facility in Aiken, since HCA's contract with the county stipulates that the old facility will be closed, he asked, "I can't understand that, who's going to carry the charity?"

"Listen, "Reel explained, "Our medical staff serves both facilities here and I can't say too much, I've already been practically castigated."

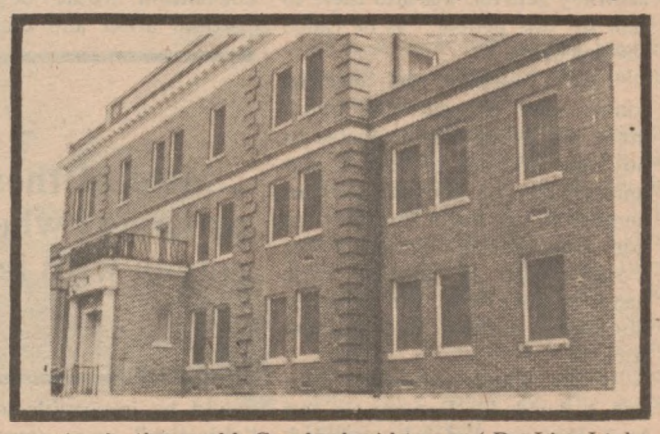
But he went on to say, "I can't envision them (HCA) giving a community anything, that's not the way they operate. I'd be suspect of anything they did that didn't reflect a profit motive cause that's not the way they operate."

William Fallin, County Commissioner for Colquitt County, Georgia, explained that in his county the voters passed a bond issue rather than accepting an HCA facility. "In the places where we investigated HCA there was also a public hospital. Here they would have had the only hospital. We could never satisfy ourselves as to who was going to carry the non-profit load. We could never determine what would happen to those people who could not afford to pay."

It's bad enough that people like Lassen, Reel and Fallin contradict what Frist alleges HCA does for a given community, but further complicating the issue in Aiken is the factor which inevitably seems to enter these sorts of controversies-- politics. In 1972 Aiken County switched from the county delegation style of government to a County Commissioner set-up. The same year the Republicans took all the seats on the County Commission. Harold Graybeal, chief county commissioner, has been HCA's chief proponent in Commission meetings. Because of his conservative leanings and his pro-HCA stance Graybeal has come in for some criticism by many Friends of the Hospital.

"It's like a comic opera, those Commission meetings," one critic explained, "He's got no control over the meetings and he gets irrational when he gets angry."

Dr. Lipe expressed his feelings about Graybeal, saying, "It's tragic. For instance, I was a medical missionary in Africa, Southeast Asia and other underdeveloped areas before I came to practice medicine in Aiken. I told Graybeal at one Commission meeting that there are conditions here in Aiken County that are as bad as any underdeveloped



country in the world. Graybeal said to me, ' Dr. Lipe I take exception to that. I know no one is starving in Aiken County.' Now how do you reason with that?"

A call to Graybeal confirmed Dr. Lipe's concern for Mr. Graybeal's priorities.

"Hello, Mr. Graybeal, I'm with *Osceola Newsweekly* in Columbia and I would like to ask you a few questions about the hospital situation, could I stop by your office tomorrow when I'm in Aiken?"

''What's the name of that paper? Is it a black newspaper?"

"Er, not really. Well none of the staff is black if that's what you mean. What I'd like to do is talk with you about this hospital situation."

"Well, you'll just have to catch me out at the dedication ceremonies. I'll talk to you then."

Since it rained at the ceremony it was impossible to talk to Graybeal, but later that afternoon he gave to the *Aiken Standard* a copy of his dedication speech which he didn't get to finish because of the rain. He gave *Osceola* permission to use any part of it.

The Aiken Standard has backed Graybeal on many issues, so much that many of the Friends believe the Standard to be nothing more than an HCA-Graybeal mouthpiece.

Not so, said Carroll Allen, the *Standard* reporter who has covered the HCA controversy for the past few months. He, along with many others at the newspaper, believes that anything would be better than nothing. "The handwriting is on the wall. The national hospital organization which accredits hospitals has warned Aiken that it may not be accredited the next time they come through. With that only a few years away we have to get moving."

Or as the *Standard* said in its editorial column:

"There have been over the years, several other efforts of varying degree to get a new public hospital for Aiken Conty.

Along comes a brand new form of county government with the instigation (sic) of the Aiken County Board of Commissioners 20 months ago. Its members were untried, inexperienced and unversed in the ways of politics and government. But they recognized the health care crisis as our foremost problem. They recognized that all previous efforts to get a new, modern, adequate hospital had failed because Aiken County residents couldn't agree on it--whether it involved funding, a site, or other considerations.

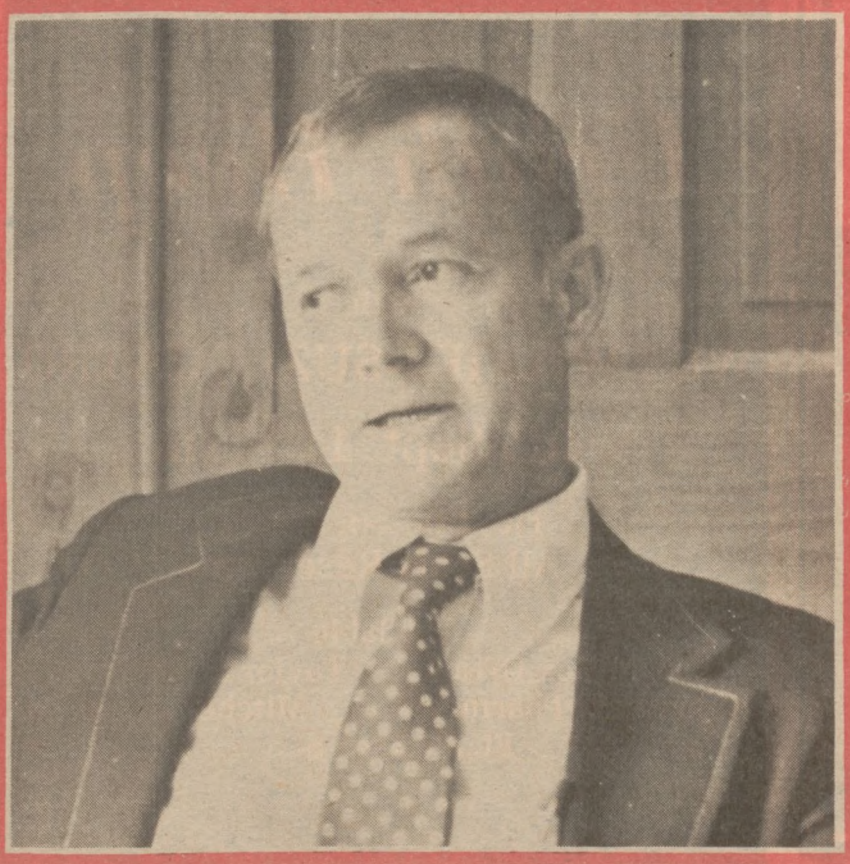
The commissioners saw a way. They turned to the best private hospital operators in the nation, Hospital Corporation of America."

Perhaps HCA is the panacea for the medical problems of Aiken County which the *Standard* and Graybeal hope it is. And perhaps it is not. Even if HCA goes ahead and begins constructing its hospital in November, the voters could decide to buy the privately built structure and make it their own. Dr. Frist, when asked how he would feel if the voters chose to buy his hospital, said, "I don't care."

HCA will build the hospital, make their profit and if at that juncture they are asked to leave, they "don't care," because they will have gotten everything they have put into the community back out again, plus 10 percent.

...If you hear enough about crises, then soon you believe that there is a crisis..."

Dr. Lipe



Labor and the Democrats

by Bob Thompson

At times it looked as if the South Carolina Labor Council's convention was a Democratic fund-raising affair. Almost every statewide Democratic candidate was on hand to praise the labor movement and to give a personal sales pitch. Campaign literature flooded the Carolina Inn -- all of it Democratic.

The assembled multitude included gubernatorial hopeful Charles D. "Pug" Ravenel; W. Brantley Harvey, the Democratic lieutenant gubernatorial nominee; South Carolina's junior U.S. Senator, Ernest F. Hollings; and Congressional hopefuls Matthew Perry, John Jenrette, and Ken Holland. Tom Turnipseed, the defeated candidate for state attorney general, was also there to talk to "his people," as he called the delegates.

Tables outside the meeting rooms were covered with union literature telling the delegates to buy one product because it was union-made, or boycott another because it was made by "scab" or non-union workers. Several young women sat at another table handing out Perry for Congress literature, buttons and bumper stickers.

If the whole three-day affair had a decidedly Democratic cast to it, that was certainly intended, and surprising to none who knew the S.C. Labor Council. It would be hard to think of a group that is more closely wedded to the policies and philosophies of the state Democratic Party than the Labor Council. Though the word "Republicans" was heard few times during the incessant speechmaking, the GOP was clearly the implicit "enemy" and occasional scapegoat referred to recurrently.

The S.C. Labor Council comprises about 25,000 members of local unions affiliated with the international AFL-CIO. The Labor Council, however, does not include *all* state locals that are dues-paying members of the international AFL-CIO; some locals have chosen, for one reason or another, not to join the Labor Council although they belong to the AFL-CIO -- a fact that bothers some Labor Council leaders. One person estimated that there are about 80,000 AFL-CIO members in South Carolina. To make things more confusing, there are some locals, such as the Teamsters and the United Auto Workers, that have no ties with the AFL-CIO.

Oddly enough, despite the many political heavies on the agenda, there was precious little press coverage of the convention. In fact, this reporter saw no other press representatives attending any of the functions.

One of the reasons might have been that the press through experience knew that the convention would be a strictly partisan affair and that hence it would be impossible to give any "objective" news coverage of it without inviting complaints of unfairness and partisanship. But another factor seems more important when the traditional role and image of labor is considered.

...Most of these candidates are no doubt press-shy when it comes to aligning themselves with labor unions...

Despite the pains that some candidates go to in wooing labor's votes and other support (i.e. financial), most of those same candidates are no doubt press-shy when it comes to aligning themselves with labor. For, as one delegate explained it, the public still pictures union people as "a bunch of pinkos." This stereotype, he said, probably stems from a public school system and an antagonistic press in South Carolina that portray union organizers as agitators seeking to enrich themselves at the expense of the workers, other consumers and industry.

Thus it would be fairly safe to say that generally neither the Democratic candidates at the convention nor the Labor Council went to any great lengths to let anyone know that those candidates were courting the unions. There was none of the ordinarily heavy advance press coverage that accompanies speaking engagements of the major candidates. Despite the fact that the poor image the public has of labor unions is basically unfounded and irrational, that public image must be considered nonetheless. And it was.

Politicking wasn't all that took place at the convention. There were a number of resolutions passed to support the various causes celebre of labor and to reform the Labor Council's structure. Those resolutions included ones advocating collective bargaining for public employees, supporting increased teacher salaries, and calling for the decentralization and improvement of health care facilities.

The 18th Constitutional Convention of the Labor Council, as the affair was officially called, provided a focal point for several labor causes. A member of the United Mineworkers Union, hefting a chunk of coal to dramatize his cause, asked for the Council's official endorsement of the UMW's strike against Duke Power Company's Brookside coal mines in Harlan County, Kentucky. A representative of the American Federation of Teachers asked the Labor Council's support in requesting that South Carolina's teacher salaries be increased to the national average. And Gilbert Padilla from the United Farm Workers office in Atlanta appeared to explain the aims behind the UFW's strikes and boycotts against non-union growers.

Yet the upcoming battles for the state's elective posts clearly took precedence, as political speechmaking consumed most of the three days. Apparently the Labor Council felt that its interests would be served only if a favorable slate of candidates is elected in November. And those candidates, of course, are all Democrats.

That doesn't mean that the Labor Council or its speakers gave blanket approval to all Democrats. For instance, Cong. Bryan Dorn, defeated candidate for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, was singled out as being a "bad man." Clem Dowler of the AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education (COPE) told the delegates that Dorn last year had voted correctly on only 32 of 130 bills on which COPE had rated congressmen.

"Do you know how close you came to having a *bad man* as governor in Bryan Dorn?" Dowler asked the attentive delegates. "If it hadn't been for the South Carolina AFL-CIO, Dorn could have been elected. You should have the credit for defeating this bad man," Dowler added to loud applause.

On the Republican side, President Gerald Ford was an exception of sorts, too. While none of the speakers voiced wholesale approval of the new chief executive's programs, some said they would try to work with him to combat inflation and other nationwide problems. Jenrette, who is opposing Republican Cong. Ed Young in the Sixth District race, said, "I've wired him (Ford) my support in his efforts to reunite the country."

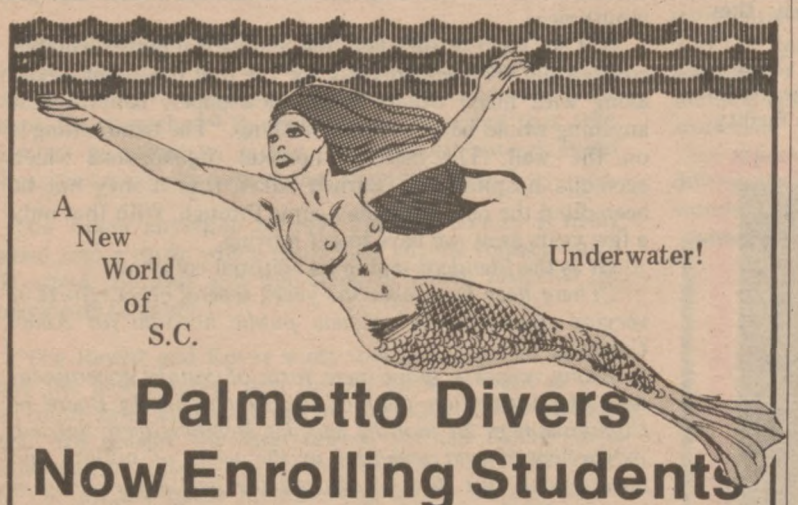
Most of the candidates speaking seemed willing to give the new President a chance to prove himself. But Holland, the Democrats' Fifth District Congressional candidates, was less kind. In an attempt at wit, he said, "I wouldn't buy a used car from his (Ford's) predecessor, and I don't want to buy a used Ford now."

There was a substantial number of black delegates attending the convention, perhaps an indication of the state labor movement's increasing realization of the important role blacks play in successful unionizing. The officers of the Labor Council were all whites, until Saturday morning when a black man was elected to one of the two vice presidential spots. But there were indications that the Council is increasingly seeking black support and votes for their candidates.

Still, some labor leaders seemed uneasy in their rather new role of racial egalitarians. Bill DuChessi, secretary-treasurer of the Textile Workers Union of America, exhorted the delegates to support the registration of blacks to vote, but his style was less than perfect in doing so. He told the assembled convention that "demonstrations are great, but burning, rioting, are wrong and we're not going to stand for that." His assertion that "young black people" ought to try instead to effect changes at the ballot box gave the impression that he hadn't quite rid himself of an image of black youths as hooting, looting rioters.

Matthew Perry, a black Columbia attorney, followed DuChessi to the podium. Perry, who is opposing incumbent Republican Floyd Spence for the Second District Congressional seat, was warmly received when he said he "appreciated the role of organized labor" and alluded to his "great admiration for labor leaders of the past" such as John L. Lewis.

Perry said the most recent landmark in the labor struggle was a U.S. Supreme Court ruling ordering reapportionment of the S.C. House of Representatives, which the lawyer said made the House elections more democratic. Other than that, most of Perry's speech consisted of general promises that he would represent



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...There is a degree of ferment within the labor council. How much there is no telling. But it is there...

"people issues" against the monied "corporate giants" if elected.

His criticism of Spence included a claim that Spence voted for an amendment to give oil companies "even greater tax loopholes," though the amendment was eventually defeated. Perry also said the incumbent Congressman voted against the rollback of gasoline prices, adding, "That was a vote against the working people and a vote for the big oil companies."

The speakers who followed were on the whole predictable and of course partisan. Clem Dowler of COPE placed the blame for inflation on Richard Nixon and "greedy businessmen." He said "we're planning to do more than take a quick look at Gerald Ford" but he also expressed optimism that Ford will sign a "very important" pension reform bill.

Jenrette, the next speaker, joked that he had a plan to combat inflation which he called his "inflationary bra," and he criticized the Republican Party for taking "the initiative of the working men and women...to the brink of a disastrous situation." He lambasted his opponent, Ed Young, for voting against social security increases, drug education programs, and other measures, saying, "Something's got to be wrong with the system."

The silvery-haired, dignified looking Fritz Hollings strode to the microphone to give his plea for fiscal conservatism, calling a balanced budget "the only serious issue" at this time. Hollings, who will be opposed in November by Republican Gwen Bush, a Charleston housewife, said, "They've been calling me 'Meat-ax' (in Washington) but I decided somebody had to stand in the way and say no."

Ravenel stuck to his customary issues of educational and health care improvements, and he contended that as governor he *could* fight inflation -- by getting together with other governors and going to Washington to voice their complaints about economic policies. But he did raise a few eyebrows when he said he favored a "right-to-work" law for South Carolina. The law, in effect now, means that workers neither have to join a union to work, nor do they have to honor strikes which a union calls for.

Right-to-work laws have traditionally been opposed by labor unions. So perhaps it was an indication of the power Ravenel has in labor circles that the delegates accepted his support of the controversial law. In fact, the delegates cheered when Ravenel told them, "If the right-to-work law is used improperly, I believe the thing to do is to change the *way* the law is used."

Lieutenant gubernatorial candidate Rep. Brantley Harvey received a rather tepid introduction by Labor Council president Sinway Young. "His voting record at first wasn't all that we would have liked," Young said of the Beaufort legislator, "but in the last four or five years" it has been good, he added. Harvey forced a grin and stepped up to the podium to advocate "modernization and liberalization of the workmen's compensation act," collective bargaining for public employees, improved public education, increased teacher pay, state subsidized loans for housing starts, voter registration by mail, and absentee voting by mail.

The Labor Council voted on several resolutions and elected new officers before adjourning the convention. Besides those resolutions supporting causes, such as collective bargaining for public employees and teacher pay raises, several motions were made that would have changed the structure of the Labor Council.

One resolution, the most important, would have changed the position of Labor Council president from part-time to full-time. The other called for the president and two vice presidents to be elected every two years instead of every four years as is now done. Both motions would have required a two-thirds vote of approval from the delegates for passage, since they would involve changing the Council's by-laws. They were sent back to the Resolutions Committee and later rejected by the general delegation.

* * * * * *

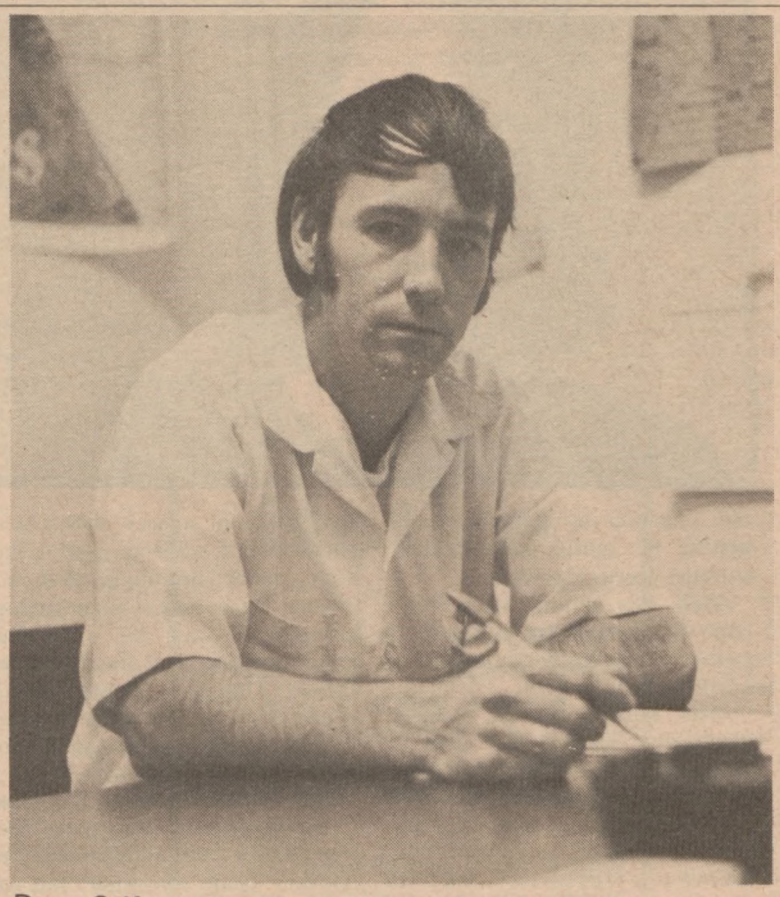
Sinway Young has been president of the S.C. Labor Council since it was organized 18 years ago. In those intervening years he has built up a strong power base in labor circles, so much so that he has been unopposed several times for the Labor Council presidency.

This year Young, business manager of Local 382 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, was again unopposed for the presidency of the state's largest labor organization.

But there is a degree of ferment within the Labor Council. How much, there's no telling. But it is there. As in almost all organizations, there is inevitably some conflict between the "old school" and the younger "up-and-comers." The Labor Council is no different.

Davis Self, the young business manager of Laborers Local Unions 1292 and 1293, is evidence personified of that ferment. Self, who considered opposing Young for president this year but decided fighting such an established foe was hopeless, has some ideas about how the Labor Council could be made into a more effective body.

Self, an affable, self-effacing man, is quick to point out that



Dave Self

Sinway Young isn't to blame -- at least wholely -- for what Self considers the Labor Council's ineffectiveness. But nevertheless he points to the Council's relatively small membership -- it includes "just over a quarter" of the state's AFL-CIO locals, he says -- when he claims the Council is not considered a viable organization.

The reason Self says that ineffectiveness is "maybe no fault of Sinway's" is that the presidency needs to be a full-time position, and he adds that Young can only do so much because of his responsibilities as full-time business manager of the IBEW local. "I've mentioned it to some people," Self said this week, "and the consensus is that there is not enough time for the president to do this."

What needs to be done, Self said, is for the president to try to increase membership in the Labor Council, build allies among groups with similar goals, educate the public as to the goals of the labor movement, and get more actively involved in consumer issues. The president should act as a lobbyist for consumer as well as labor needs, Self said, because "what you gain at the bargaining table can be lost" to increased prices.

Self said paying the salary of a full-time president (the president now gets less than $100 a month, he said) would not be a problem. There are over 50,000 members of AFL-CIO-affiliated locals who do not belong to the Labor Council, he pointed out, "because I think they don't consider the Labor Council a viable organization." But a full-time president could, first, make the Council more viable by working harder, and then he could attract new dues-paying members into the Council, thus paying for his own salary, Self said.

While some of the problems the labor movement in South Carolina faces could be solved by a stronger president, said Self, other problems can only be solved by a change in the tactics of the Labor Council. The main problem, he said, is the deteriorated image the public has of labor. And related to that, he added is the "degrading" way South Carolina industries treat union workers.

"People need to know that labor people are not always running around with guns, that they're just like other people," he said. He pointed out benefits that union bargaining has brought to union and non-union people alike -- the abolition of child labor, social security, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, etc. -- and stressed that the unions' public image is overdue for some revamping.

That could be done through educational programs, such as films prepared to be shown in schools and at civic meetings, Self said. He added that the Labor Council already has many films prepared by the AFL-CIO at its disposal but isn't using them. "Industry goes to the schools and tells what its plants do for people. Why can't labor do the same thing?" he asked.

But it is the treatment of labor unions by some industries that rankles Self the most. He told about an ad run regularly in *Business Week* that tells industries, "Come to South Carolina. We don't have any labor pains." He called the allusion that South Carolina's workers will tolerate low wages and poor working conditions "degrading," and said he deplored ads "showing humble construction workers as meek as lambs."

Self maintained that the labor movement in South Carolina can and should be strong. "We have 80,000 union people. If that's not an effective bargaining force, I don't know what is."

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Music/James Taylor

Super-control submerges the charm

Walking Man
James Taylor
Warner Brothers

Success breeds criticism. In James Taylor's case, a lot of it. It all toppled on him a couple of years ago, and after a curious parting salvo in the form of his *One Man Dog* album he sought refuge in a semi-public fadeout, something like the calm eye of a hurricane.

Now for the second assault. This one, it seems for sure, is directed at the critics. It's a foregone conclusion that he already has the general public in the bag, and it now appears that for the moment at least he also has captured the critics. Like a divine sovereign, or maybe a dictator, he has won the hearts of the citizens and also the watchdog press. Of course, in the play world of entertainment the press is an all-powerful force which can easily, whimsically destroy its darlings. And I for one say the sooner the better. I'm already slightly weary of Sweet Baby's new-found perfection. Before, his big personal problem was the "successful recluse" syndrome, and James Taylor at his frustrated best was something to hear. But now he's decided to counter that old bugaboo by going out and getting his music made perfect. Not just peerless; *perfect*.

Well, one album, okay. But I hope he doesn't try it again. It just isn't the kosher image for a one-time head patient.

The music has not changed drastically. Taylor the poet is noticeably better than ever, and his chord progressions, melodies and harmonies are typically complex, subtly smooth. He still writes effortlessly but in sophisticated terms about singers and the ills of society, with a side potpourri of subjects (Carly, the baby, inner broodings that no listener -- maybe not even Taylor himself -- can be sure he comprehends). And he still sings these songs in his nasal country-blues-balladeer voice which cannot be imitated, no matter how easy it seems.

But it ain't the same. Of course it would be silly to expect the same angles from an artist after a vacation from recording. But in this case it's strange. The most obvious change is in format. *One Man Dog*, itself something of a departure from his three previous LPs, was rather fragmented, containing 15 songs. *Walking Man* is standard ripoff size: 10 airplay-length cuts. This obvious shift is a by-product of the central change.

Peter Asher (Peter and Gordon) used to produce Taylor's albums. On this one he is relegated to singing choral back-up on a single number, while doing the production and co-arranging (with Taylor) is guitarist-organist David Spinozza. There's no fooling around now, which may please critics and fans both, up to a point. Every decision Spinozza made appears to have been a sound one. He made each song quite interesting and unique without taking many chances. Practically the only thing resembling a frill is infrequent use of a Vox humana, an electronic instrument which can simulate an "ahhing" chorus, and its parts are unobtrusive. The music fits together wonderfully, and considering the scope of Taylor's talent, that brands this as certainly an accomplished production job.

The complaint I have is that this super-control over the music has left it sounding mellower than what came before. With Asher, Taylor used to do corny things: include an unadulterated folk song on an album ("Oh, Susannah"); include an unadulterated commercial-folk song ("One Morning in May"); play a chain saw; import a snatch of hillbilly background. For a performer of his stature things like that didn't come across as mindless antics; they simply gave the listener nice feelings. At times Taylor's voice would stick out of an arrrangement like a sore thumb, and by damn, James Taylor got away with it.

One critic has said his new LP is the first on which Taylor sounds optimistic rather than sullen. Well, before there was tension, which wasn't exactly a bad element. It was almost as though the arrangements fought to compensate for the, yes, "sullen" tone of his singing. That isn't the issue anymore. The voice and the surrounding music are happily married -- maybe they've compromised.

But, gee. The Lawrence Welk people have been achieving that kind of unity within their idiom for years.

Dan Harmon

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Events/entertainment

(continued from page twelve)

theatre

"Love in E Flat" will be playing at the Flat Rock Playhouse this week. The show begins at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday evenings with a matinee at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday. Prices are $4.50 and $3.50 for regular shows and children are $1.50 at the Matinees.

The theatre is on U.S. 25, three miles south of Hendersonville, North Carolina.

classes

The University of South Carolina Department of Art will sponsor Saturday morning art classes for ten weeks beginning September 28.There will be three classes, for 7-8 year olds, 9-10 year olds, and 11-12 year olds.

Further information and application forms may be had by calling Cynthia Jackson between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. daily at 777-4236.

specials

The use of hand-made four-harness folding floor looms will be demonstrated by Ken Perrine, a Columbia craftsman at Sparkleberry Crafts near Lexington on Saturday, September 7 from 2 to 5 p.m. This will be the first Columbia showing of these looms, made by Perrine, a former USC professor now devoting himself to full-time wood crafts. Call 359-6723 for further information and directions.

The Fall Slow Pitch Softball League, sponsored by the Columbia Parks and Recreation Department will begin September 9. If you would like to organize or sponsor a team call the Parks and Recreation Department at 252-2136.

television

Saturday, August 31

2:15 p.m. -- Baseball. The day's heavy sports coverage starts off with the Boston Red Sox playing the Twins at Bloomington, Minn. The rain game features the California Angels vs. the Brewers at Milwaukee. (Channel 10)

5 p.m. -- Wide World of Sports. Scheduled events include a jump by cycling daredevil Evel Knievel, who will attempt to clear 13 trucks at the Canadian National Exhibition as a warmup for his much-publicized upcoming jump over (or into, perhaps) the Snake River Canyon. (Channel 25)

8 p.m. -- "Lucas Tanner." A TV pilot, which will be made into a series starting soon, concerning a high school teacher whose reputation is threatened when it is believed the teacher's negligence caused a student's death. (Channel 10)

10 p.m. -- College Football '74. A special on the upcoming college gridiron season, including interviews with top players and coaches. Probably a good chance to get caught up on the football scene if you haven't been able to follow all the personalities. Who can? (Channel 25)

Sunday, September 1

2:15 p.m. -- Baseball. The Atlanta Braves are hosted by the New York Mets at Shea Stadium. Live, of course. (Channel 10)

2:30 p.m. -- U.S. Open Tennis Championships. If it seems like there's nothing else we can recommend for a Sunday afternoon's viewing but sports, that's almost right. Anyway, you can see such stars as John Newcombe, Billie Jean King, Jimmy Connors and fiancee, Borg, Goolagong, Smith and others. (Channel 19)

5 p.m. -- NBC News Presents. "More Than a Dream," a documentary on social changes in the South in the two decades following desegregation, features interviews with a white and a black family from Nashville, Tenn., on what those changes are. Should be edifying and interesting. One hour long. (Channel 10)

Monday, September 2

7:30 p.m. -- All-American Futurity. A sports special on the richest horse race in the world, with a prize of $330,000 rewarding the winner of a 22-second dash. No wonder it's called "All-American." Where else? (Channel 10, live)

8 p.m. -- ABC News Closeup. "Prime Time TV: The Decision Makers" will examine how entertainment series are chosen for broadcast. Find out why and how those lousy shows get on, and how a few good ones slip in. (Channel 25)

8:15 p.m. -- Baseball. San Francisco Giants vs. the L.A. Dodgers at Chavez Ravine. (Channel 10)

9 p.m. -- NFL Football. Special, live coverage of exhibition game between the Oakland Raiders and the San Francisco 49ers at Frisco. (Channel 25)

Tuesday, September 3

7:30 p.m. -- Billy Graham Crusade. Graham will preach on the topic "The Origin of Sin" in a program from Atlanta Stadium, the first of several stops in a weeklong crusade. (Channel 10)

8:30 p.m. -- From Sea to Shining Sea. Here is the first of seven special historical dramas celebrating the reported Bicentennial. This episode stars Robert Culp as the fictitious (we hope) John Freeborn, an itinerant peddler in 1775 who gets revolution fever. 90 minutes long. (Channel 10)

9:30 p.m. -- Hawkins. A politician's campaign director is accused of killing a muckraking reporter who was about to file a story that might have hurt the politician's chances in the election. Gulp! If you see it, please don't tell us about it. (Channel 19)

Wednesday, September 4

9 p.m. -- The Killers. A special report on genetic defects, who suffers from them, what the most common afflictions are, and how to cope with them. The controversial issues of selective abortion and mandatory genetic screening will be discussed. (Channel 35)

9:30 p.m. -- Henry Fonda as Clarence Darrow. A 90-minute portrayal of the famous lawyer who defended a teacher accused of teaching the evolutionary theory of the origin of man. (Channel 10)

10 p.m. -- Emmy Awards for News and Documentaries. This year news and documentaries get their own show, telecast live from New York. Another break with tradition will have the usual acceptance speeches replaced with "minidocumentaries" showing highlights from the nominees in each of the four categories. Dick Cavett will be the host. (Channel 25)

Thursday, September 5

8 p.m. -- Evel Knievel: One Man...One Canyon. The publicity hound who will soon be risking his neck and other assorted bones when he will attempt to jump the Snake River Canyon on a jet-powered motorcycle is the subject of this special. ABC Science Editor Jules Bergman will explain the technical aspects of the jump. (Channel 25)

9 p.m. -- WFL Football. The Philadelphia Bell takes on the Sharks at Jacksonville, Fla. (Channel 10)

11:30 p.m. -- Dick Cavett's guests include Barbara "Laughing All the Way" Howar; singer Paul Simon and Anthony "Clockwork Orange" Burgess. (Channel 25)

Friday, September 6

10 p.m. -- Sandburg's Lincoln. The first of a six part series on ole Abe. Hal Holbrook stars as the 16th president. The first part focuses on Lincoln's volatile and emotional spouse, Mary Todd. Well worth your viewing time. (Channel 10)

10 p.m. -- CBS Reports. If you don't want to watch the Lincoln special then be sure to catch "Peace and the Pentagon." This special examines the high cost of the military, even in peace time and asks the question,"Why?" (Channel 19)

1 a.m. --Midnight Special. Marvin Gaye is the only guest tonight so settle back for a Gaye old time. (Channel 10)

Notice

Public Voice, South Carolina's private consumer activist group, will hold a public meeting this Thursday, September 5 to discuss options for the public relative to the current SCE&G rate hike request.

The meeting will be at 8 p.m. in the Richland County Public Library. For further information you may call Bill Harden, acting director of Public Voice at 253-8324.

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cinema

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ATLANTIC I THEATRE, 3220 Two Notch Road, 786-0790

"Black Sampson" Rated R. Another black flick with black dudes doing it to white dudes, black women and even black dudes. Shows at 3:30; 5:30; 7:30 and 9.

ATLANTIC II THEATRE, 3220 Two Notch Road, 786-0790

Your two X-rated features this week are "Cherry Blossom" and "Closer." The shows are continuous from 3:30, with the last complete show at 9.

CAROLINA THEATRE, 1223 Main Street, 252-8011

"Three the Hard Way" with Jim Brown, Fred Williamson and Jim Kelly is black,baby, BLACK.Rated R. Shows are at 1;3;5;7 and 9.

CINE-ART THEATRE, 1017 Washington Street, 779-9039

The triple bill of X-rated swill at the sinny this week is "Around the World with Fanny Hill;" "Teenage Milkmaid;" and "Female Moonshiner." The box office opens at 12:30 and the first feature begins at 1 p.m. The last complete show starts to roll at 8 p.m.

DUTCH SQUARE NORTH THEATRE, Dutch Square Mall, 798-1100

Opening this week is "The Terminal Man" with George Segal. The book was a well-done suspense thriller and if the movie is true to the novel, then it ought to be worth seeing. Rated PG with shows at 1;3;5;7 and 9.

DUTCH SQUARE SOUTH THEATRE, Dutch Square Mall, 798-1100

"Benji" is about a dog. Yes ladies and gentlepersons, a dog. Not just any canine, but the kind of shaggy pup who will charm his way into your hearts. You'll laugh, you'll cry as Benji weathers the troubles life can bring. It's rated G, so take the kids. Shows are 2;4;6 and 8.

FOX THEATRE, 1607 Main Street, 254-5212

"Return of the Dragon" is Bruce Lee's last flick.You'll remember that Lee died last year in Hong Kong. So this will be your last chance to see Bruce chop, hack, and kick his way into your hearts. Rated R. Shows at 1;3;5;7 and 9.

GAMECOCK I THEATRE, Parkland Shopping Mall, 796-0022

It's back! "What's Up Doc" with Striesand and O'Neal is a funny, funny flick. What with the economy in a turmoil and the world going to hell you need a good laugh, so catch this one between crises.Rated PG with shows at 1;3;5;7 and 9.

GAMECOCK II THEATRE, Parkland Shopping Mall, 796-0022

If you can't quite get in the mood for "Doc" then go next door to see "Blazing Saddles." You'll laugh your fanny off.Rated R. Shows at 2; 3:50; 5:40; 7:30; and 9:20.

JEFFERSON SQUARE THEATRE, Jefferson Square, Downtown, 254-6731

"Uptown Saturday Night" with Cosby and the gang in a new black comedy. Rated PG with shows at 1;3;5;7 and 9.

MIRACLE THEATRE, 1228 Main Street, 256-1050

"California Split" with Gould and Segal in Robert "M*A*S*H" Altman's newest flick. If you like semi-funny stories about gambling, then go to see it. Our sources say it's OK, but nothing great. Rated R with shows at 1:10; 3:15; 5:20; 7:25; and 9:30.

PALMETTO THEATRE, 1417 Main Street, 254-5800

"Parallax View" with Warren Beatty. Rated R with shows at 3:15; 5:10; 7:05; and 9 p.m.

PLAZA III THEATRE, 1323 Main Street 254-7960

Andy Warhol's "Frankenstein" has received mixed reviews. Some say it's great, some say it's trash. Anyway it's rated X and you can make up your own mind at 1:40; 3:30; 5:20; 7:10 or 9p.m.

RICHLAND MALL THEATRE, Richland Mall, 782-2228

"What's Up Doc" with Ryan O'Neal and Barbra Streisand starts this week. A funny slapstick sort of affair, which you ought to see if you didn't catch it last time it was in town.Rated G. Shows at 3; 4:30; 6; 7:30 and 9.

KIDDIE FLICKS

For a quarter and a ticket you can pick up from any one of several downtown merchants (Belks, Davisons, etc.) you can drop the kids off at the movies on Labor Day Monday.

At the Jefferson Square Theatre at 11 a.m. it will be two Charlie Chaplin flicks: "City Lights" and "Modern Times." You might even enjoy seeing these yourself.

At the Fox Theatre it's "The Neptune Factor" with Ben Gazarra and Ernest Borgnine. This one is a G-rated adventure flick with shows at 11 a.m. and 1p.m.

(continued on page eleven)